

The meeting of the City Manager Sounding Board to House Our Neighbors was called to order at 9:00 a.m. on Wednesday, November 10, 2021, online and by phone.

City Manager Sounding Board: Homelessness Solutions: Megan Perkins, Barb Campbell, Katherine Austin, Briana Manfrass, Hans Jorgensen, Dana Richards, Stacey Witte, Erik Tobiason, Scott Winters, Jeff Payne (alt.)

1. Welcome and Introductions

2. Public Comment

Charles Hemmingway supports the work the Sounding Board has done.

Kelli Wainscoat thanked the Sounding Board and discussed embracing that this still needs to move forward. Wainscoat said that this is breaking barriers and to keep looking for ways to put compassion into the code.

Jennifer Eichhorn asked how the Sounding Board made their decisions and thought this meeting was going to be more on information. Eichhorn asked where she can go to get more information.

Leslie Lundberg asked if there was representation from law enforcement on the Sounding Board and if there was any consideration to put this on the ballot.

Jim Dunn said the City has been supporting the self-destruction of humans and asked if there is a way to prioritize the shelters for those currently in need. Dunn said that if the Bethlehem Inn is presented as the flagship then the community would feel differently about the changes.

MJ said that the public's homes are their biggest investment and that is why there is anxiety among community. MJ discussed re-evaluating recommendations at a later time.

Brad Irwin said that this is a very scary change for people who built this community and it is moving quickly. Irwin said that businesses are not being represented.

3. Overview of survey results and main themes

Susanna Julber discussed the Shelter Code Survey responses and main themes.

Members discussed the following in regard to the survey results:

- Capture the rest of the demographics in the community – reach out to people who are experiencing homelessness
- Receive more feedback from other City advisory committees
- Historically the City has been reticent to put too much thought on non-statistically valid survey's
- Reach out to other groups – not with a survey that requires a phone or laptop
- Focus on the comments that spoke to the code
- Portland and Eugene Examples – they work
- Focus the public support and input to specific things the Sounding Board is discussing as opposed to the philosophical arguments – there is a real opportunity, as long as Sounding Board can keep the dialogue focused on the codes and the metrics
- People go to the worst-case scenario – focus public on codes and metrics
- Rules about evicting people off the property

4. Discussion by Sounding Board

Julber discussed additional items and questions for the Sounding Board.

5. Review of public improvements standards

Colin Stephens, Planning Manager, presented a review of the Public Improvements Standards.

Members discussed the following on the public improvement standards:

- Speak to timeframe for the hardship – RV's and driveways
- Change of use – some are close to the same and could trigger some of the improvement standards
- Spending time going through a lengthy process through planning when there is an emergency situation for some of the shelters is negative
- An alternative compliance that is not as expensive would be something to consider
- Based on a need, if funding becomes a barrier there are other avenues to address that
- Sidewalks are almost always in violation – there is almost nothing you can do to make them comply with the accessibility requirements
- Code is confusing for people applying for a shelter – have staff tasked to help with the process
- Waiver and exemptions – giving City staff the tools to make good common-sense decisions is key
- Double standards
- There is not a sidewalk requirement for ADU
- Sidewalks can cause a large financial barrier to some projects
- Plans like this would protect neighborhoods who have people living in an RV on their property without a permit or permission

6. Other recommendation topics

7. Recommendation on draft Shelter Code amendments

Members discussed the following recommendations on the draft Shelter Code Amendments:

- Code Enforcement Recommendations
 - Temporary Shelters (Within Residential Zoning Districts, a Temp Shelter has to be associated with an institutional or public use)
 - Hardship Shelters (look at time recommendations) - 6 months with 3 renewals, change name to Hardship Housing
- Public Improvement Solutions?
 - New Waiver standard based on shelter type and financial hardship
 - Exempt new outdoor shelters from public improvement standards

Councilor Campbell moved to accept the code changes with the recommended change's discussed. Member Austin seconded the motion, the motion passed 7-1 (Member McFadden opposed).

8. Next Steps

Julber presented the following next steps:

- January 10, 2022 – Planning Commission Work Session
- January 24, 2022 – Planning Commission Public Hearing
- Council Consideration

9. Adjourned at 11:39 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kayla M. Duddy
Deputy City Recorder